

From: Troy Harkey
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:05pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to you to express my support for the settlement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. Consumer confidence in tech stocks has dwindled as the federal case has dragged on. Since the US District Court entered its judgement against Microsoft on April 3, 2000, we have witnessed a historic decline in investor confidence in the technology industry. The technology-heavy Nasdaq Composite stock index, which managed to get as high as 4504 that day, now rests comfortably below 2000 representing a loss of 56%.

Now we are in a recession. Massive layoffs are announced every week. Once mighty companies are folding. I believe it is time to put this issue to rest and enact the settlement.

Microsoft has made many concessions throughout this process. They have agreed to disclose the protocols of their windows system. This means that Microsoft will be required to make its proprietary information available to competitors. I wonder if those companies will have to share their proprietary data with Microsoft? It seems to me we should be rewarding innovative companies not penalizing them, or slicing them up, and feeding them to the competition.

I can remember when DOJ disassembled AT&T. As a result, my local telephone service is now far less reliable and much more expensive. I can't even get anyone to answer the phone at the phone company to address a problem with my bill!

Finally, I would like to state that the enactment of the settlement will benefit the technology industries. Microsoft has done its share to resolve the issue. Please enact the settlement reached in November.

Sincerely,

Troy Harkey